(h) whether anybody has offered so far to take on lease the Potteries, and if so under what terms

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) The Factory is in charge of a Foreman who is a Licensed Mechanical Engineer and who was trained under the late expert Mr. C. V. Balappa.

For purposes of administration it is under the charge of the P. W. D.

(b) Fire-bricks and Minton tiles.

(c) Principally stoneware pipes, glazed jars, and fire-bricks.

(d) The expert who designed the kiln is no longer in the service and the trials of the late expert Mr. Balappa made for the manufacture of pipes were not reported to have been a success. The work has however since been continued and the efforts made have been reasonably satisfactory.

(e) Vide answer to (d).

(f) No.

(g) & (h). No definite offer has been received as yet. One Mr. E. J. Smith of Calicut visited the Potteries and enquired whether they would be leased to him. He was told that Government will be prepared to lease the Potteries on payment per mensem Rs. 3,500 plus Fire Insurance of the building estimated to cost 2 lakhs of rupees. No reply was received from him afterwards.

Working of the Potteries and the Tanneries.

241. Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Will the Government be pleased to inform:—

(a) whether the question of the future working of the Chalakkudi Pottery and Tanneries has been engaging their attention ; and if so

(b) whether they do not consider the suspension from work of these two Industrial concerns will, in the long run, ruin the machinery and the buildings and depreciate the already deplorable value the Government have received for their money ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) The work in the Potteries has not been suspended. The machinery is being made use of and looked after properly.

In regard to the Tanneries Government are considering the question of lease of the Factory.

Nelliampathi Ghat Road.

242. Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Will the Government be pleased to inform the progress so far made as regards the opening of the new Nelliampathi Ghat Road and what more time it may take for the completion of the work ?

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Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Earthwork for 2½ miles is completed. Estimate for the next 2½ miles is under preparation and the work will be put in hand within a fortnight. The work is expected to be completed in all its details by August 1931.

Tank in Kunnamkulam for the use of cattle.

243. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—With reference to the reply given to question No. 155 reported in Vol. II, Part 22 of the Legislative Council Proceedings regarding the matter of having a tank for the use of cattle, Kunnamkulam, will the Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats or the Government be pleased to state whether the matter as promised has been considered, and if so, what action has been taken by the officer in charge of the Agricultural and Veterinary Departments or the Government to remove the difficulties felt by the owners of cattle in the town ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Yes; on enquiry it was ascertained that three of the public wells in the western, the Pimpiriyam and Chiralayam Bazaars can be made use of for drawing water for the use of cattle. Besides water can also be had for the purpose from two tanks, *viz.*, the Ayyankulam and the Thorakulam.

Kumbalangi Panchayat.

244. Mr. K. J. Antony.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether any, if so, how many, communications have been sent from the Kumbalangi Panchayat Office to the Office of the Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats and to the Minor Irrigation Overseer from 1st Thulam 1103 to 30th Edavam 1103;

(2) if there were communications between the above dates what are the respective numbers and dates of each of the communications ;

(3) what is the purport of each of the communications addressed between the dates mentioned in (1) and sent to the Office of the Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats and to the Minor Irrigation Overseer from the Office of the Kumbalangi Panchayat ;

(4) what was the reply given by the Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats and the Minor Irrigation Overseer to each of the communications addressed by the above Panchayat between the above dates ;

(5) if any reply has been given to any of these communications addressed between 1st Thulam 1103 and 30th Edavam 1103, will the Government be pleased to place those replies on the Table of the House ;

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